10.	उत्तर प्रदेश सर्किल	48	84	131	263
11.	टी एण्ड डी सर्किल	2	शून्य	2	4
12.	गुजरात	25	17	40	82
13.	मध्य प्रदेश सर्किल	290	235	237	762
14.	हिमाचल प्रदेश सर्किल	6	35	8	49
15.	उत्तर पूर्व सर्किल	28	25	91	144
16.	पंजाब	27	111	99	237
17.	तमिलनाडु सर्किल	94	158	91	343
18.	पश्चिम बंगाल	50	119	120	289
19.	उड़ीसा	64	74	143	281
20.	कलकत्ता	4	20	158	182
21.	मद्रास	102	24	40	166
22.	एनटीआर, नई दिल्ली	शून्य	शून्य	शून्य	शून्य

US Advice to set up TRA

2414. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US Government have recently asked the Government of India to set up a fully independent requlatory authority on the Telecommunications Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STA; E OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) It is the Govcnmeni of India's own decision to constitute a Telecom Regulatory Authority in order to ensure that a level playing field is available !o all private sector operators in the field of basic and value added services. For this purpose different models as obtaining in other countries are been studied and suggestions from a numbe* of other countries including the USA are also being examined.

(b) and (c) The proposal to set up a Telecom Regulatory Authority is still at formulation stage and further details arc being worked out.

Telephone Exchanges in Rural Areas

2415. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of telephone exchanges in rural areas; State-wise;

(b) how many of these exchanges are electronic exchanges; and

(c) by when all the exchanges will be made electronic in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The status as on 28.2.1995 is attached as Statement *(See* below)

(c) The objectives of 8th five year plan of the department of telecommunications envisage replacement of all strowger MAX-III and line finder type MAX-II exchanges by electronic exchanges by 31st March, 1997. However efforts are being made to replace all remaining Electro-inechanica! exchanges by electronic exchanges in rural areas by 31st March, 1997.